



THE EDUCATIONAL THOUGHTS OF Dr. APJ ABDUL KALAM

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ABSTRACT

Education plays very important role in development of human beings which may be formal or informal mode. And great personalities motivate our youth and children by their thoughts. Dr. Abdul Kalam is one of them who dominate his life for student and youth. He put his educational thought for development of education field.

KEY WORDS: Educational thoughts, creativity, dream, ignited mind.

INTRODUCTION

India has second place in the world in view of population. India has the young and vibrated youth who is below the age of 35 years, which is up to 65% of India's population and literacy rate is 74.04% at per latest census estimate 2001-2011. But that is only the quantity aspect. Because as literacy defined in Census Operations, is "the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. A person who can merely read but cannot write is not classified as literate. Any formal education or minimum educational standard is not necessary to be considered literate." But Education is not bound only knowledge of any language, writing and counting, it has broad meaning. Education can be formal and informal mode.

Education develops conceptualizing, inferring, inventing, testing and thinking. Education should be connected with productivity, it means after completing education individual can earn and survive his life in society. Where we are needing critical action is the issue of the quality of the Indian education system. Indian education system always gives important place to biographies and thoughts of great personalities which motivates to children and youths.

Many personalities took birth in our mother land and motivate our youths and children. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is one of them. He played many roles from seven decades as a scientist, as a President, as an author and as a teacher. In honor of the scientist and former president, the southeast Indian state government of Tamil Nadu created a "Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award," which recognizes exceptional individuals who promote the sciences, students and humanities. The government has also established Kalam's birthday (October 15) as "Youth Renaissance Day." Kalam liked to meet students and shared his experiences and motivated them to become something for nation. He is one of the great personalities who dominated the last moment of his life to students and youths.

METHODOLOGY

The present paper is primarily based on secondary sources like the Books, Journals and Articles etc. The method used is descriptive method.

OBJECTIVE

To study the educational thoughts of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam – Concepts and Functions of Education, Aims of Education, Methods of Teaching, Discipline and the Role of Teacher.

AIM OF CHILDREN EDUCATION

Kalam liked to meet students and shared his experiences and motivated them to become something for nation. He is famous in students CHACHA KALAM. In one function of school parents and teachers summit, he put thoughts about children that: "Children are born with a message itself. They are new, happy and fresh. He would like to appeal to their parents and teachers that they do not burden on them of their frustrations. Let them create new and freshness. Let them be happy. Your hopelessness and frustration will pollute their pure minds. Instead of their hopelessness please give expectations. Of their golden future, give them ambitions to do something or become something, encourage them each side. It would be good to them and also of the nation." Kalam advised to teachers and parents that please do not put their desires on the child. He held that children should eventually move towards their dreams come true. Their confidence should be promoted and developed them to be the highest moral values. So they can become enlightened citizen of the country and to contribute to the development of nation.

Kalam said that knowledge makes them great. He defined the knowledge that: knowledge has three components (a) Creativity (b) Righteousness and (c) Courage. That the combination of these characteristics can generate enlightened citizen.

He described first component creativity :

**“ Learning gives creativity,
Creativity leads to thinking
Thinking provides knowledge
Knowledge makes you great.”**

The next component of knowledge is righteousness. The power of Righteousness is described in a divine hymn, which is follows:

**Where there is righteousness in the heart,
There is the beauty in the character.
When there is beauty in the character,
There is harmony in the home.
When there is harmony in the home,
There is order in the nation.
When there is order in the nation,
There is peace in the world.**

He told the way of inculcate the righteousness in the heart. He told that righteousness has three sources by which a student becomes the righteousness by heart. First is environment, second is care of love and final is great teacher of this institution.

The third component of knowledge is courage, which is defined follows:

**Courage to think different
Courage to invent
Courage to travel into an unexplored path,
Courage to discover the impossible,
Courage to combat the problems and succeed,
are the unique qualities of the youth.
As a youth of my nation, I will work and work with
courage to achieve success in all the missions.**

Kalam believed that concentration was a key factor in acquisition of knowledge. He was influenced by the ideas of Swami Vivekanand: "How has all the knowledge in world been gained but by the concentration of the power of mind? The world is ready to give up its secret if we only know how to knock. How to give it the necessary glow? The strength and force of the glow come through the concentration. There is no limit to the power of the human mind. The more contrite it is, the more power is brought bear on one point that is secret. For as much Kalam was a scientist so he wanted to develop a creative mind in children and motivated them for discover the hidden secrets in the world. For new discoveries illustrate the power of concentration of human mind.

Kalam wants to develop three things in a child through education. First is creativity, second is ignited mind and finally dreams. Creativity comes through creative learning habit. Teachers provide opportunity of creative learning through some important things to keep in mind. They need to pay attention that how much the

child learns through self observation. Outside the classroom, learning is also important. They must give opportunity to the children, for learning through observation, field studies, experiments and discussion. Curriculum activity and examination system should be able to recognize and evaluate creativity and new thinking of individuals. Kalam gives motivational thoughts to children that:

When learning is purposeful, creativity blossoms.

When the creativity is blossoms, thinking emanates.

When the thinking emanates, knowledge is fully lit.

When knowledge is lit, economy flourishes.

Kalam advised to schools and educational institutes that those have a great mission to ignite the minds of the students. Because ignited mind of the young are the best thing of the creation. No one can find similar powerful resource on the earth, above the earth and under the earth.

Kalam believed that dreams were very important in human life. First a man sees a big dream, then to get it in real life he does continuous hard work which is helpful for the development of the nation. A child sees a dream that he would become a doctor or an engineer or a scientist or a teacher or a political leader, or a bureaucrat or a diplomat or would like to walk on the moon or Mars. Only education is a medium which helps for fulfilling his/her dreams. Education gives wings to his/her dreams for flying in real. That is "Wings of Fire". The Wings of fire will indeed lead to knowledge which will make him to fly in dreams. According to Kalam there is no greater power in whole world than the commitment to dream. Dreams hold some things of that energy which lies at the heart of all things and are the binding force that brings the spiritual and the material together. He said:-

Dream, Dream, Dream

Dreams transfer into thoughts

And thoughts result in action.

He advised to teachers for improving the confidence and willpower among the students for realizing their dreams. Kalam motivated to young for creating a page in human history by their contribution. Nature also helps to link their dream and real life later.

Kalam told a tremendous aim of education to transform a child in to transform a child in to a leader. He explained that every one of us have gone through the various phases of education from the childhood to profession. A scene appears in front of us where there is a child, a teenager, an adult and a leader. In situation of a human need, each one reacts differently. A child asks, "What can you do for me?" The teenager says, "I want to do it alone." The young person proclaims "Let us do it together." The leader offers, "What can I do for you." So education have a big aim of transformation of "What can you do for me?" to "What can I do for you?"

TEACHING MODE

Kalam was a great scientist, so his educational thoughts are influenced by his profession. He believed in technologies. He thought that technology would help in to the scheme of revolutionizing education. In this technology, computer is an effective medium which provides ample assistance in accomplishing numerous reform goals. These valuable tools are providing active collaborative learning and assessment. Independently student can become publishers of ideas and opinions. Emails give opportunities to students for peer review and group editing. Every student would have wired or wireless internet connection in his computers so that he use of the integrated educational services anytime, anywhere be it in the classroom or the hostel or the home. They would always connect to internet. This medium is more sophisticated interactive multimedia package which offer to student for true inquiry based learning. By which student can construct and demonstrate solutions to a variety of class project. Students always update with all the recent events on the subject and can also communicate with their teachers without interruption. Without help of teachers, students should get the assignments, completed and submitted through e-learning system. Teachers only motivate their imagination to think wider and find the solution by self effort. Teachers encourage them to take risks and think differently.

Computer cannot replace the teacher, realistically that would be both undesirable and impractical. The computer is an effective teaching tool which assists the educator. Students are learnt individually through software. Students can progress on a subject at their paces. The teacher can take help of the computer to concentrate on interaction and individualize assistance. In 21st century time and distance have not any important. It is immaterial where the information is located at anytime and anywhere. We can store all necessary information in hard disk which is related to our life. We always overloaded with the information.

Kalam knew also importance of sports. He wanted to give opportunities to children for sports. He said that-"If at all in human life there is any aspect that can enrich the mind and body in an integrated way it is sports and games."

QUALITIES OF TEACHER

According to Dr. Kalam – "Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the

character, caliber, and future of an individual. If people remember me as a good teacher it will be the biggest honor for me."

After retiring from President, he chose teaching profession. He was well known about the power of the teacher. He is inspired with thoughts of a great teacher - "Give me a child for seven years. After wards, let the God or devil take the child. They cannot change the child." So he said that the teacher played very important role for shaping students life with great dreams and aims. Each teacher, who belongs any status, should play an important role in build of next generation. In this century, there was a time in which the honor was awarded teacher as GURU. But scenario condition comes that is their dishonor. Face this condition and contribute in nation development. For this, they must improve and innovate their knowledge, So that their students made similar wise. Besides knowledge they should be increased their qualification, expanded their thoughts continuously so that students could also stimulate broad thinking. When the teacher is empowered with knowledge and experience, good human beings with value system take shape.

He said- "Educationist should build the capacities of spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role model."

A young person, who spent the best part of life approximately 25000 hours in school campus as a student till 10+2 class. When he lives at home, again he spends most of time of the day in preparing school's assignment and study, eat, play and sleep. So teacher's behavior and school environment has most important place in build of his future. Therefore school must have those teachers, who love teaching as a GURU level and build moral qualities and ready to accept new technology and teaching methods. A good teacher has to prepare generation, which is a unique characteristic of moral value and professional capabilities. Teacher can realize his dreams and will inspire confidence among students. In Kalam's words- "Creativity is the key to success in the future, and primary education is where teachers can bring creativity in children at that level."

CONCLUSION

Kalam was a great scientist of the World. He invented many things which gave glory to India. He was a patriot, who dominated whole life for nation. He knew that children and young are power of nation so he always prepared to meet them and motivated them. His profession put more effect in educational thoughts. He knew the power of education so he wanted to increase literacy of nation. He wanted to arise a love in children for science. Because he believed that nation could develop through science and technology. He always gave the importance to dreams. He motivated to children and young to see a big dream, because a dream played very important role in his life. He recalled an incident, when he was studied in class 8th at the age of 13. His teacher, Shri Siva Subramania Iyer was teaching about bird's flight. He drew a diagram of a bird on the blackboard depicting the wings, tails and the body structure with the head. He explained how the birds create the lift and fly. But many students including him could not understand the lesson. After knowing this, his teacher took all students to the sea shore of Rameswaram in evening. He showed the bird and taught the lesson. All students understood very clearly. But bird's flight entered in to him and created a special feeling. From that evening, he thought that his future study has to be with reference to flight and flight system. Thus his life was transformed as a rocket engineer, and aerospace engineer and technologist. He said about dream that-

"Dream is not that which you see while sleeping it is something that does not let you sleep."

Besides dreams, he wanted to develop creativity and moral values in students so that they will become an enlightened citizen of nation through education. He saw a dream of develop India in 2020. For fulfilling his dream he spent his whole life. He believed in present education system. He told that this education system is capable to build enlightened human beings. This education system gives great scientists, doctors, engineers who are spreading their knowledge in the world. So this will be helpful in completion of this mission.

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